qualified persons on the posts of its Chairman and Member Secretary and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what are the names of State Pollution Control Boards which have not implemented those directions and the reasons furnished by each Board in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) and (b) The Central Government has addressed the State Governments emphasizing the need for appointment of persons having requisite professional knowledge and experience for providing effective leadership to their organizations as Chairman and Member Secretaries of State Pollution Control Boards, in accordance with the statutory provisions. Various States have communicated their positive response in the matter and have initiated the process of its implementation.

Cultivation of forest land by small and marginal farmers

1372. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, a large number of small and marginal farmers are unauthorisedely cultivating the forest land in the country;

(b) if so, their number and the extent of land unauthorisedely cultivated by them, State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that much of this land be belongs to the C & D categories of forest land;

(d) if so, what is the extent of this land cultivated by the small and marginal farmers, State-wise; and

(e) whether it is a fact that most of these small and marginal farmers do not own any other lands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (e) No such detailed reports have been received by the Central Government that the small and marginal farmers are unauthorizedly

cultivating the forest land in the country. Even otherwise the unauthorized occuptation of the forest land is treated as encroachment under Indian Forest Act, 1927 and various other State Acts and Rules for the time being in force and therefore, the State/Union Territory Governments have been requested to evict such ineligible encroachers from the forest land.

Forest Area in Kerala and Karnataka

1373. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total forest area of the States of Kerala and Karnataka during the period 1981-2001, separately;

(b) whether it is a fact that large scale depletion of forest area is taking place in these States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to protect the forest land from further depletion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) The assessment of forest cover is done by Forest Survey of India on biennial basis. The first assessment report of the year 1987 and the last one is that of 2001. The figures are as under:

Areas in Sq. Km.

State	1987	2001
Kerala	11218	11221
Karnataka	38645	38724

(b) No, Sir. There has been an increase in the forest cover of both the States during the period 1987—2001.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Some of the steps taken by the Government to protect the forests from depletion: